



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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March 16, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of an Indictment charging defendants Darnell Gaskins, Michael Jones, Bryant Younger, Eric Harris, Duane Jones, and James Palmer with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base ("crack") and marijuana, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, as well as related substantive and schoolyard counts, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1). Robert and Duane Jones are charged with the possession of firearms by a convicted felon, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §922(g) and, along with Gaskins, possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §924(c). The Indictment also contains Notices of Forfeiture.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	CITY OF RESIDENCE	AGE
Darnell Gaskins	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	21
Michael Jones	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	20
Bryant Younger	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	23
Eric Harris	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	28
Duane Jones	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	19
James Palmer	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	21

If convicted of all charges, the defendants face the following maximum possible sentences:

Darnell Gaskins - life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of fifteen years, a \$4,750,000 fine and five years - lifetime supervised release.

Robert Jones - life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of 25 years, a \$5,250,000 fine and five years - lifetime supervised release.

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Bryant Younger - life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of 20 years a \$4,750,000 fine and five years - lifetime supervised release.

Eric Harris - life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of 20 years, a \$5,000,000 fine and five years - lifetime supervised release.

Duane Jones - life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of 25 years, a \$5,250,000 fine and five years - lifetime supervised release.

James Palmer - life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of 10 years, a \$4,500,000 fine and five years - lifetime supervised release.

The case was investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Frank R. Costello, Jr. has been assigned to prosecute this matter.

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An indictment is only an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.